

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,655

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

Applicant(s)

SUGIMOTO, KEIICHI

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the preliminary amendment (A) filed on September 28, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 09/28/01, 06/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to an image binarization method. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features: "as a first processing, multi-digitized luminance data obtained by digitally converted video signals from an imaging device for each pixel on each horizontal scanning line is stored in an even-numbered row horizontal line memory if the current horizontal scanning line is an even-numbered row, and is stored in an odd-numbered row horizontal line memory if the horizontal scanning line is an odd-numbered row, and in said multi-digitized luminance data on the current scanning line detected maximum value MAX<sub>i</sub> and minimum value MIN<sub>j</sub> exceeding predetermined displacement level, and addresses MAX<sub>Pi</sub> and MIN<sub>Pj</sub> at the detected pixel positions are stored in an even-numbered detection memory the current horizontal scanning an even-numbered row, or in an odd-numbered row detection memory if the current horizontal scanning line odd-numbered row; and as a second processing, reading-out is carried out from the even-numbered detection memory if the current horizontal scanning line is an odd-numbered row, or from the odd-numbered detection memory if the current horizontal scanning an even-numbered based floating thresholds  $FTh = MIN_j + (MAX_i - MIN_j) \times K$  (herein, K is an emphasis coefficient between 0 and 1, and h, and j are integers starting from zero) for each section X<sub>h</sub> of the horizontal pixel address row set by means of operation, the multi-digitized data read out from the even-numbered horizontal line memory in the case of the odd-numbered row or the odd-numbered horizontal line memory in the case of the even-numbered row is

converted into binary data". The closest prior art, Tateno et al. (US Patent No. 5,937,146) disclose binarization processing apparatus and method and Herrmann (US Patent No. 5,121,207) discloses digital circuit arrangement for processing an analog video signal at a free running system clock, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-0090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT TT  
October 14, 2004

  
JOHN MILLER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600